

E - 45,093

JAN 10 1969

Public Policy
C.I.A. 2.04.2 Students (NSA)
Org. (National Student Assoc.)

This Generation

New NSA Programs Geared To U.S.

By GEOFFREY LINK

It was two years ago February that the National Student Association was linked with the Central Intelligence Agency, an alliance that threatened to destroy the student group.

The NSA today has ridden out the storm, though it has all but removed itself from international student affairs.

One staff member felt that "the CIA scandal was as much a benefit to NSA as a detriment."

"The structure of the organization changed from one which essentially resembled a Junior State Department to one which now provides programs that are felt to be directly relevant to students in the United States," said Mike Vosiek of Washington, D.C.

But early in 1967 things looked bleak.

NSA had a reputation of being liberal but anti-communist since it was founded in 1947 by young veterans returning from World War II. Yet only a few NSA officials knew of the link with the CIA.

At the time, the then NSA president, Eugene Groves, said his organization never did "serve any intelligence function" or provide "information of a sensitive nature" to any government agency. He argued that despite the funds the NSA usually stayed at odds with government policy and that the CIA influence was on the wane.

NSA's 1966-67 budget only included \$50,000 from the CIA, but it was enough to outrage fund-raising chief Michael Wood, who blew the whistle in a 50-page memo which was publicized and detailed in nearly every major magazine and newspaper in the country.

Yet, NSA membership has risen, Vosiek says, from 289 student governments before the break with the CIA to 370.

While perhaps a dozen NSA staffers once attended world student conferences, a year after the expose only three worked part-time in international student politics. None traveled outside the U.S. This curtailment of activities was due to the difficulty of finding funds after the CIA break.

According to last year's president, Edward Schwartz, the NSA still was receiving funds from government agencies, but none for intelligence functions.

Schwartz has reported that the Office of Economic Opportunity had contributed more than \$250,000 to finance tutorials for slum kids; the U.S. Office of Education gave \$31,000 for experiments on 10 campuses in which students helped evaluate curricula and teaching performance; and the Field Foundation gave \$35,000 to finance three staff members' work on integration in higher education in the South.

NSA's \$750,000 budget is based primarily on grants

from such private foundations as Ford, Stern and Field, and the student organization continues with a domestic program offering research information, consultation services and general support to member student governments.

At its 21st Congress last summer, NSA spelled out some new directions:

Job-finding — A new service attempting to match student job applications with a company's job requirements.

Voting age — Campus committees working towards lowering the voting age to 18 will receive information, support and direct assistance.

Student rights — A pledge of funds and facilities to help students obtain their full constitutional rights, particularly in cases where schools are threatened by a loss of government funds because of student action.

The draft — NSA advocates abolishment of the Selective Service System "and opposes any system of forced service to the government." Supported is a voluntary army with an increase in GI benefits, also placement of most of the armed forces jobs under Civil Service.

Student services — Low-cost life insurance, campus discount programs, aid to students abroad are among many.

The NSA is ready also to establish "student consulates ... if necessary" in foreign

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countries to help Americans studying abroad, "or who emigrate for any reason."

Institutionalized racism — Which, the NSA declares, is "the most critical problem confronting our society" and of strikes and riots on campuses.

The NSA national office, meanwhile, pledges "highest priority" to the use of funds, possibly a look over the shoulder to two years ago, and to